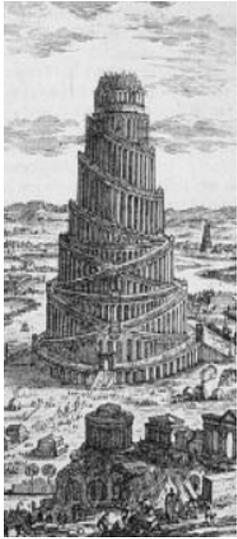


Tower of Babel: Arrogance Defeated by God



God had a plan for the sons of Noah after the flood—"Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth" (Genesis 9:1). After leaving the high country of Mount Ararat, the family of Noah settled in the plain of Shinar, and at this time they all spoke the same language and dialect (Genesis 11:1-2). Compared with the terrain in the mountains of Ararat, the plain of Shinar seemed great, but, remember, God wanted to replenish the earth (Genesis 9:1; 11:2). Their plans for themselves were not God's plans for them. They said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name [reputation] for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth" (Genesis 11:3-4). They prepared for a long stay and for independence from God! Perhaps, in their minds, this tower would protect them from another flood and/or their enemies. They built it to "fortify and glorify" themselves, but in reality, it was a monument to a lack of faith in God's promises (such as symbolized in the rainbow) and in God's command to populate the earth. However, rather than reaching heaven as they thought, the Lord came down to them and their tower and said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. Come, let Us [the Godhead] go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech" (Genesis 11:6-7). Following this statement, God "scattered them (*continued below*)



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The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

CALLING ALL YOUTH!

Friday thru Sunday, August 8-10 will be the annual Teen Recharge at Weeki Wachee Christian Camp. Directed by Wayne Shearer and Holly Thornhill. The theme: "It's More Blessed to Give than to Receive" (Acts 20:35).

Sunday, August 10 will be our next Lads to Leaders day. Our young people are in full gearing-up mode. We appreciate your help. We will have a schedule of events soon.

Saturday, August 16 will be our next youth devotional and activity. It will be hosted by the Bingles. Stay tuned for further details and ways you can help.

Saturday, August 16 the Airport Road church of Christ (Valdosta, GA) will host GIGS (Girls in God's Service).

(*continued from above*) abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city;" therefore, "its name is called Babel [which means 'confusion'], because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth" (Genesis 11:8-9). What can we learn from this? First, God is so much greater than the feeble efforts some humans make to thwart His will. God simply laughs at these efforts and pours out His wrath (Psalm 2:1-5). Second, we reap what we sow (Galatians 6:7). They reached up to heaven, only to bring heaven's judgment upon them. They wanted to "make a name," but their reputation was not as great as they expected—it lives in infamy! They did not want to be "scattered abroad," but that is exactly what happened! May we never think and/or act as if we know better than God! Rather, let us humbly take pleasure in doing His will! ❤️ *Brian*

The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

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SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30a.m.
Worship.....10:30a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00a.m.
Bible Study.....7:00p.m.

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Jesus Knows Me This I Love

Raymond Elliott

Most believers in the Lord have sung or have heard the song “Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so...” However, the expression ‘Jesus (God) knows me’ is equally as scriptural, and we all should love this great truth and the One who knows us. In 2 Timothy 2:19 we read, “Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: ‘The Lord knows those who are His,’ and, ‘Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.’” The church of our Lord has a sure foundation, and the gates of hades cannot successfully prevail against it (Matthew 16:16-18; 1 Corinthians 3:11). In the New Jerusalem, the wall “had twelve foundations, and on these were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb” (Revelation 21:14). The house of God (the church) has this seal, “The Lord knows those who are His...” In Nahum 1:7 the prophet wrote these comforting words, “The Lord is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble; And He knows those who trust in Him.”

God is all knowing. The Psalmist declared this in Psalm 139:1-6, “O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O Lord, You know it altogether. You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.” Rather than being a frightening thing to me, as His child I should be so thankful that the Almighty God, the Creator and Sustainer of life, knows my heart’s intentions, my weaknesses, my heartaches, my cares, my trials and tribulations, my desires, my needs and yes, even the number of hairs on my head. He knows my name. He knows more about me than my wife, my children, my friends, my brethren and even the federal government.

The mere thought is overwhelming. To know that He cares for me moves me emotionally, and I love it so. Among the teeming millions who live on this earth, He hears me when I pray to Him. How can this be? There is not a place I can go but that He is there (Psalm 139:7-12), and I love it so. He knew me when I was in my mother’s womb and He knows the way I shall go (Psalm 139:13-16). The Psalmist closes the chapter with these words, “Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting” (Psalm 139:23-24).

What Have They Seen in Thy House?

Robert R. Taylor, Jr.

Hezekiah was not compelled to show his visitors all that was in his house, but he volunteered to do so (2 Kings 20; Isaiah 39:1-8). The prophet later asked, “What have they seen in thy house?” Hezekiah was foolish to show his treasures for it later led to the Babylonians returning to take them away.

Still it is a good question. What is there to be seen in our homes? If there is evil in our homes, we cannot always conceal it from our guests. If there is good, it likewise cannot be hidden. The all-seeing eye of heaven is aware of everything that happens in our homes (Hebrews 4:13).

Friend, let us ask ourselves, “What have they seen in our houses?”

- Love or hatred, concern or indifference, gratitude or ingratitude, unselfishness or selfishness in the home relationships? Does each member think others exist only to meet his every whim and fancy (cf. Philippians 2:1-5)?
- What type of reading material is allowed in our home? Is it material built on worldly things or erected upon the excellencies of the Bible? Are there true confessions in the home or the confessions of truth as found in the Bible and sound reading material (Philippians 4:8)?
- What about the television programs we watch? Certain movies are R-rated. Instead of such fare, families need to restrict those shows designed to appeal to our lower and baser elements. Many shows not rated so extreme are also unfit for consumption – especially young, impressionable minds (Psalm 11:3; Ephesians 4:22-24).
- Would they witness the long face of pouting, the quick flare of a temper tantrum, or uncontrollable bursts of anger when something fails to please you (Colossians 3:8)?
- What type of spiritual atmosphere have they seen in our homes? Can they leave and say we are a spiritually-minded and Bible-centered family? Paul wrote, “For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace” (Romans 8:6).
- Would they have observed us giving thanks for every meal (1 Timothy 4:3-4)? Would it be so common and frequent a habit that our children would automatically wait for an expression of thanks before they passed the first dish of food to the guests?
- How long would a guest have to remain in our home before he saw the family head read the Bible and heard him pray with the family gathered around him (Matthew 5:6)?
- What do guests see the family do if it is Sunday morning, Sunday evening or Wednesday night? Do they witness every member making preparation to attend the services of the church? Are they invited to attend? If they refuse, do the guests see the family set aside their plans to go and remain home to entertain the current visitors (Hebrews 10:25)? Or do they hear the family say, “If you will not go with us, just make yourselves comfortable. We will be back as soon as worship is concluded” (Matthew 6:33)?
- Ancient Hebrews believed if they failed to teach their children a trade, they taught them to steal. Have they seen children who are required to earn their allowance and perform their part of the household and yard duties (Proverbs 22:6)?
- Have they seen the home as a workshop for winning the lost to Christ (Mark 16:15-16)?

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Ann Howard is now at Savannah Ct. 6550 Socrum Loop Rd. Rm 108. She can have visitors. Dick & Joyce Burbage, Rosalind Coleman, Duane Nelson, Bill Burton, JoAnn Hoback, Margaret Coone & Sharon Washington.

Relatives: Bob Kirkland (cousin of Brenda Mask & Darlene Thompson) & Wayne Hendrix.

Shut In Members: Ann Howard, Virginia Plumlee & Louise Starks.

Others: Vera Jackson, Marilyn Eick, Jo Schnell, Frank Wood, Christina Fuessner & Bonnie Hendricks

Upcoming Events

Aug. 3rd- "Fellowship in Service" after the the evening worship service.

Visitors

Jordan Kessler, Linda Pennington, Alicia Smith & Ltraile, David & Tina Stout, Mr. & Mrs. Donald Sullivan, Mr. & Mrs. Steven Sullivan, Shawn Sullivan.

Sympathy

To the family of Sam Bolding who passed away this morning, July 29th. No arrangements, are available at this time.

Placed Membership

We are happy that Nancy Jacobs placed membership with us last Sunday. Please get to know this fine lady, and welcome her into our church family. She needs our encouragement.

Wedding Announcement

Alexa Barrett & Kyle Williams will be married this Saturday, August 2nd. at 1:00 P.M. at the So. Fla. Ave. church of Christ. The reception will follow in the fellowship hall. All of our members are invited. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Nikki or Kyle by Wednesday.

Hither, Thither & Yon

Joe & Jacquelin Dopwell will travel to New York Aug 6th to visit his mother. Please pray for them, and others who may be traveling and for those serving in the military.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

August

Kenny French **Table** Charles Paulin
Bob Pratt **Assist** C. J. Grimes

Sunday, August 3, 2014

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Ken Walker
Prayer Jim Turner

10:30 A.M.

Announcements David Anderson
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Tucker Sweeney
Closing Prayer Tim Croson

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Jim Turner
Opening Prayer Jeff Bingle
Closing Prayer Paul Romine
Greeters Josh & Marissa Estridge
Att. Cards Ian Enamorado & Paul Sweeney
Open & Close Building Jimmy Sweeney

Wed. August 6, 2014

Song Leader Jason Hendrix **Opening Prayer**
Phil Fife **Closing Prayer**
Kyle Bingle

*Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call **Chuck Wyatt** so he can get a replacement - 859-5231*

August 10, 2014

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Jim Turner
Prayer Fred Strickland

10:30 A.M.

Announcements David Anderson
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Josh Estridge
Closing Prayer David Williams

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Jim Turner
Opening Prayer Steve Hunley
Closing Prayer Jason Hendrix
Greeters Phil & Dottie Fife
Att. Cards Sebastian Rapley & Ian Enamorado
Open & Close Building Jimmy Sweeney

Wed. August 13, 2014

Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer David Williams
Closing Prayer Josh Estridge

~ HOW WE ARE GIVING ~

Jul 06	\$3,488.15
Jul 13	\$4,682.50
Jul 20	\$4,541.06
Jul 27	\$4,167.87
Contribution Average	\$4,161.51
2014 Weekly Budget	\$4,256.38

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